

MADERA County Department of Agriculture

2008 WMA Base Funding Work Plan

Member of Sierra-San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance (WMA for Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno Counties)

Title: Yellow starthistle Leading Edge treatment
and Arundo Control in Ash Slough, Chowchilla

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Contract Lead Group and contact information:

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WMA Group Affiliation: Sierra-San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance (Mariposa-Fresno-Madera Counties) WMA

This contract for 2 projects will be 1 contract with Madera County Dept. of Agriculture.

Overall WMA Structure and Partners:

The Sierra-San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance (WMA for Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno Counties) consists of over 20 agencies and groups successfully coordinating weed management since 1998. Since its inception, an average of 800 acres of noxious weeds were controlled each year from 2001-2004 with SB1740 funds and at least 35 small, new infestations were eradicated (including 5 A-rated spotted knapweed and 2 B-rated perennial pepper weed sites). In 2006 and 2007 the WMA has continued to maintain the investment made with SB1740 funds as possible. Additional sources of funding such as Madera and Fresno County Payments to States (RAC) funds, CalFed funds, and donations from organizations such as the Merced Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation have helped tremendously and show that there is interest and commitment in accomplishing weed management in the 3 counties. Overall, our focus has been on control along roads and on key properties representing both the yellow starthistle leading edge and outlier infestation control for State priority weeds such as spotted knapweed, perennial pepper weed, Iberian starthistle, rush skeleton weed, and purple starthistle. The group is chaired by the Sierra National Forest botanist. The Forest Service hosts quarterly meetings and coordinates the WMA.

- Mariposa County Department of Agriculture
- Madera County Department of Agriculture
- Fresno County Department of Agriculture
- USDA Forest Service, Sierra National Forest
- USDA Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Native Plant Society
- Central Sierra Watershed Committee
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Southern California Edison Company
- Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- California Department of Forestry
- Upper Merced River Watershed Council
- Coarsegold Resource Conservation District (RCD)
- Chowchilla-Redtop RCD
- Mariposa County RCD
- Sierra RCD
- UC Cooperative Extension, Mariposa County
- Mariposa County Farm Bureau
- USDI, Yosemite National Park
- USDI, Bureau of Land Management

Proposed Projects

Project 1 Title: **Leading edge YST treatment in eastern Madera County.**

Project Goals:

The goal of this project is to contain and reverse the leading edge of the non-native highly invasive weed, yellow starthistle, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in eastern Madera County. This is a top priority project of the **Sierra-San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance (WMA)**.

A licensed pesticide control contractor will be hired to spray Transline (and possibly Garlon and Roundup) on approximately 27 net acres of yellow starthistle in the general area of the leading edge (from Ahwahnee southward to North Fork, encompassing Bass Lake and Oakhurst). A project coordinator (contractor hired through Federal Grant # 08-DG-11051551-051) will oversee the logistics of the project and will be a liaison between Madera County Department of Agriculture and the PCO. This coordinator has been surveying, mapping, communicating with property owners, monitoring, and controlling YST in the Eastern Madera County leading edge area for 7 years).

The Coordinator will **survey** county roads and properties known to be infested with YST during late spring of 2009.

In 2009 a computerized GIS **map** will be created with the locations of treated YST infestations in the project area.

Monitoring/Reporting: In addition to maps, the number of miles of roadway treated and their locations, the number of infestations treated, the number of acres treated, and efficacy of 2009 treatments will be described in a report accompanying the map.

Project 2 Title: Integrated Weed Management of *Arundo donax* in Ash Slough, Chowchilla, Madera County

Over Project Description/Goal:

The City of Chowchilla has undertaken the task of attempting to eradicate *Arundo Donax* in Ash slough from the Railroad Trestle just west of Highway 99 to the south-westerly City Limits. This is an area of one half mile, on both sides of Ash Slough. (Total 1 mile of area) Phase I and phase II of that project entailed the cut and spray of the plants in the project area. That work was completed in the fall of 2007.

We now must engage in at least a five year maintenance effort to achieve 100% eradication. The first year project will entail monitoring and removing any re-growth that has occurred. A recent survey has shown that some re-growth is present.

The proposed project would entail hand cutting, painting of the stumps, removal and proper disposal of the debris. The work will be accomplished using City permanent and part-time staff and City equipment.

In order to accomplish those tasks we must first ensure that we again mark the known Elderberry plants.

We must also perform training of the employees that will be engaged in the work to ensure that they recognize and avoid any Elderberry plants while performing the work.

Project Time Frame:

August through November 2009

Treatment Rationale:

The re-growth is limited at this time and due to the existence of the Elderberry the cut and paint method is considered the most effective and least invasive method to use at this time. Painting of the stumps with "Aquamaster" has proven effective in other areas and is the method that we intend to employ.

Follow-up monitoring and assessment will be conducted in the spring after the dormant period has passed. At that time additional resources will be allocated to ensure the future success of the project.

How to Measure/Evaluate Success:

Photos will be taken before and after the work has been accomplished. In the spring we will survey the area and compare the photos with the conditions that exist at that time. We will continue to evaluate and modify methods of future treatment based on the success of this effort.